

Rainbow Hydroelectric Facility,
Fountain
1300 feet southwest of Powerhouse
Great Falls Vicinity
Cascade County
Montana

HAER No. MT-95-J

HAER
MONT
7-6REFA
25-

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD
Rocky Mountain System Support Office
National Park Service
P.O. Box 25287
Denver, Colorado 80225-0287

RAINBOW HYDROELECTRIC FACILITY,
FOUNTAIN

HAER
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I. INTRODUCTION

Location: The fountain is located at the Rainbow Hydroelectric Facility on the Missouri River, two miles north of Great Falls, Montana. It is associated with the Clubhouse at the facility, which stands 1300 feet southwest of the southwest corner of the Rainbow Powerhouse. The fountain contributes to the significance of the Great Falls Hydroelectric Facilities Historic District.

Quad: Northeast Great Falls, Mont.

UTM: Zone 12: 485070 Easting; 5264450 Northing

Date of Construction: c. 1925

Present Owner: The Montana Power Company

Present Use: Abandoned

Significance: The Great Falls Hydroelectric Facilities Historic District is significant for its association with the industrial development of Montana and the consolidation of most of the state's electric industry into The Montana Power Company. The district is also associated with John D. Ryan, the promoter of hydroelectric development at Great Falls. The fountain contributes to the significance of the district for its association with construction of permanent operators' camps by the utility as a means to provide efficient operation and maintenance of their isolated power facilities.

Historian: Mary McCormick
Renewable Technologies, Inc.
Butte, Montana 59701
June 1996

II. HISTORY

The fountain was likely constructed soon after the Clubhouse (MT-95-H) at the Rainbow Hydroelectric Facility was completed in 1925. It along with the arbor (MT-95-I) graced the formally-landscaped lawn in front (south) of the Clubhouse building (see figure 1).

III. DESCRIPTION

The fountain is a shallow basin constructed of random-laid rubble stone with thick mortar joints. The basin measures 16' in diameter, and the sidewalls are 1'6" in height x 1'3" wide. A 6-foot tall, pineapple-shaped structure stands at the center of the basin. A three-arm sprinkler is embedded in the top of this structure.

IV. FUTURE OF THE PROPERTY

The Montana Power Company plans to remove the Clubhouse (MT-95-H) at the Rainbow Hydroelectric Facility (FERC Project No. 2188). It is unknown at this time if the fountain and the arbor (MT-95-I) associated with the Clubhouse will also be removed from the site. The Company has sponsored recording these resources to the standards of the Historic American Engineering Record.

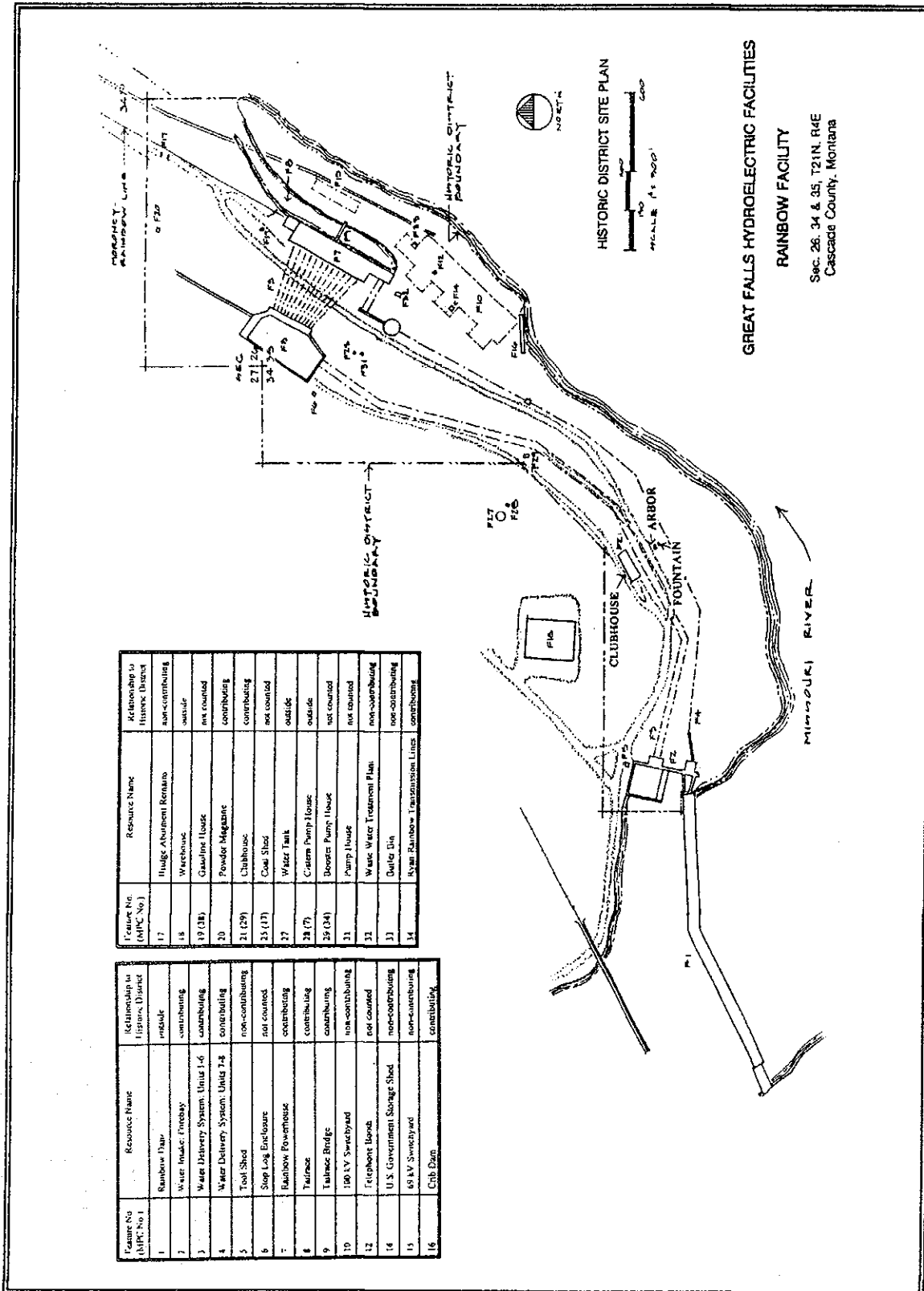


Figure 1. Rainbow Hydroelectric Facility.